

*Broadcasting*

established a few years ago. So it is only a matter of resuming the work, of pursuing it and seeing whether some of the recommendations made at that time have been put into effect and whether some improvement has been noted in that field.

Radio broadcasting started in 1922 in this country and has known a remarkable development since then.

Only a short time ago, the future of broadcasting could seem doubtful. In some cases, radio broadcasting was not understood. Its potential commercial value was being overlooked.

In the beginning radio broadcasting had two main features that it has retained since then, namely that its development is due to the capital and labour of Canadians.

In addition, in former years as well as today, private radio stations were often a one-man or a family enterprise.

From 1922 to 1929, Canadian funds made possible the operation of radio. That same financial support is also responsible for other broadcasting mediums, such as television, which has expanded not only in Canada but throughout America in the last few years, that is, since the war.

I have here a brief submitted in 1956 to the Fowler commission, more precisely the royal commission on broadcasting set up by the former government. That brief was submitted by the Canadian Association of Radio and T.V. Broadcasters in March 1956.

Summing it up would take too long, of course, but I should like however to underline the general ideas or suggestions contained therein. Quite a few of these suggestions have since been adopted either by the former government or by the present government, after 1957.

The government had been requested at the time to set up an independent commission on broadcasting. Such a commission would have made it possible to correct the existing situation where a state agency was at the same time an operator, a competitor and a regulatory body.

Such a commission would also have made it possible to apply to television and radio, regulations similar to those which operate in other free countries, and also to develop a control structure based on democratic principles.

Such were on the whole the suggestions submitted to the royal commission on broadcasting.

We know now that the independent body requested at that time has since come to life.

[Mr. Martel.]

It is known as the board of broadcast governors, which is distinct from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Reference has been made in the past—and it is a point worth mentioning, I think, since it should be carefully examined—to leftist and communist influences and infiltrations which have been at work in the C.B.C. for a number of years and which at times were increasing.

A moment ago, the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo (Mr. Carter) referred to that situation. A few details have been given on that score. I think the committee should gather more information on the matter.

I would refer the committee to *Hansard* of July 25, 1955, where names of commentators on the English and French networks of the C.B.C. were mentioned.

I did not get a chance to ascertain all those assertions myself. However, I think that a detailed scrutiny of the charges laid against those people would be welcome and would at least give satisfaction to the public as well as result in a better opinion of the C.B.C. if those charges are not well founded.

If they are not true, let us give precise information, let us prove the contrary; in short, let us inform the public, and the C.B.C.'s reputation will but be improved.

I also have here an editorial written in 1957 about that famous communist infiltration which is reportedly based on information supplied by the trans-Canada anticommunist league. I never had the opportunity to check on that information, but I think the committee would be well advised to get in touch with the members of that anticommunist league, or to request further evidence or specific information with regard to those charges. If they are unfounded, I feel that the C.B.C. and the committee would do a service to the general public by putting the facts in their true light or by pointing out weaknesses that could have existed in the past, so as to prevent a recurrence of such mistakes or irregularities.

I also find in it some findings that impressed me and which were put forward over a year ago following the famous C.B.C. producers' strike.

Those findings are set out in a rather comprehensive article published in the periodical entitled *Relations*. I should like to emphasize one of its points in order to shed light on the situation. I do not intend to read out the whole article, but only part of it, if you allow me Mr. Speaker.

That article was published in April 1959 in the periodical *Relations*. I shall not read